

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 27, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 15, 19, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 16, 18, 20, and 21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claims 15 and 17, canceled claims 16 and 25-28, and added new claims 29-31. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that claims 15, 17-24, and 29-31 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice to this effect.

I. Response to the 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, because no current was mentioned in claim 15, upon which claim 17 depended. As amended, claim 15 involves “a gain current of the laser.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under § 112.

2. Response to the Claim Objections and Claim Rejections

In response to the Examiner’s objection to claim 16, Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to include all of the limitations of claim 16, and Applicants have cancelled claim 16. As a result, claim 15 now recites the subject matter of claim 16 that the Examiner stated would be allowable in independent format. Therefore, claim 15 is now in condition for allowance.

As noted above, Applicants have cancelled claim 16. Therefore the rejection of this claim is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the right to pursue this claim in a continuing application.

Claims 17-24 each depend ultimately from claim 15 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 15 is allowable. Thus, Applicants request that the Examiner's objection to claims 15, 18, 20, and 21, and rejections of claims 17, 19, and 22-24 be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 25-28, Applicants have cancelled these claims. Therefore the rejection of these claims is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application.

By making the amendments noted above, Applicants do not acquiesce in the claim rejections. However, Applicants have made the claim amendments without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution.

With regards to new claims 29-31, Applicants submit that these claims are allowable for similar reasons as claims 15 and 17-24.

Now pending in this application are claims 15, 17-24, and 29-31, of which claims 15 and 29 are independent, and the remainder are dependent. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request notice to that effect.

3. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 15, 17-24, and 29-31 are in condition for allowance. Applicants thus respectfully request favorable reconsideration. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with the undersigned, the Examiner is welcome to call the undersigned at (312) 913-3341.

Respectfully submitted,

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